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REMARKS

Claims 1-3 have been cancelled. Claims 4-9 have been added. Claims 4-9 remain pending. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application are requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fohl (US 4,109,881) in view of Taguchi et al. (US 4,478,433). Claims 1-3 have been replaced by claims 4-9.

Claim 4 requires a retractor, an electric motor, and means for sensing the acceleration equal to or larger than the predetermined value or smaller than the predetermined value to control the electric motor.

Fohl does not disclose an electric motor. Taguchi discloses an electric motor which is responsive to one of two conditions, namely, being such that the seatbelt is unwound out of the winding shaft when the passenger gets out of the vehicle or being such that the seatbelt is unwound out of the winding shaft when the seatbelt is unfastened. Neither of these conditions requires a sensing of acceleration applied to the vehicle. Thus, there is no teaching of acceleration sensing means or of the beneficial affects of the acceleration sensing means, that is, having the motor driven to take up the webbing of the seatbelt when a collision of the vehicle is predicted or when the collision of the vehicle has been avoided, having the motor driven to loosen the webbing. Claim 4 is non-obvious over the references. Basis for claim 4 is found in claim 1; page 5, lines 12-15; and Fig. 1.

Claims 5-9 require a retractor and an electric motor such that the retractor includes a movable weight member responsive to acceleration to operatively lock the retractor. Neither Fohl nor Taguchi discloses a movable weight member such that when the weight member moves under acceleration, the retractor may be locked. This structure of the retractor of claims 5-9 is in combination with the beneficial structure and

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and resulting effects of the electric motor. Fohl discloses none of this structure. Taguchi discloses an electric motor, but not the weight structure in combination with the electric motor. Claims 5-9 are also non-obvious in view of these references. Basis for claims 5-9 is found in claim 1; page 7, lines 9-13; page 8, lines 7-20; page 9, lines 11-15; and page 10, lines 6-12; and Figs. 2-3.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are requested. Allowance of claims 4-9 at an early date is solicited. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Curtis B. Hamre, Reg. No. 29,165 at (612) 455-3802.



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